

**Opening Statement of Chairman Walden
Subcommittee on Energy Markup of H.R. 1320, H.R. 6140,
H.R. 6141, and H.R. ____
June 21, 2018**

(As prepared for delivery)

This morning we will continue to advance our legislative efforts to modernize the Department of Energy (DOE) to better reflect the Department's current national and energy security missions.

Throughout this Congress, we have sought specific DOE authorities to update in light of an ever-changing energy landscape and evolving national security threats.

Today's subcommittee markup continues these efforts and also includes modernizing nuclear policies that Congress originally embedded in DOE's predecessor agency, the Atomic Energy Commission, when the Atomic Energy Act was amended in 1954. Those authorities now reside at both DOE and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Our nation's expertise in nuclear energy, from safely operating reactors to the application of technology to the strong regulatory regime, is the best in the world. However, our foreign competitors are making strategic investments to directly support their respective nuclear interests to gain an advantage in emerging markets.

We should recognize that foreign governments' support for expansion of their nuclear industries into new markets is driven by more than economic interests: there are profound national security and strategic implications for dominance in the civil nuclear space. And so, we must appropriately consider the implications of losing our leadership position in developing markets and align our national policy accordingly.

The thoughtful legislative proposals we will consider this morning target specific challenges facing American nuclear scientists, innovators, suppliers, and reactor operators.

The bills will help deploy advanced nuclear technologies, enhance our nuclear supplier industry's ability to effectively compete in global markets, and establish transparency and predictability in our regulatory regime.

Each of these bills can help reinvigorate different components of our nuclear ecosystem. In doing so, the legislation will facilitate innovation and competition, which provides the dual benefit of both being good for consumers, while protecting our national security interests.

I thank Members on both sides of the aisle who worked on these bills, including Representatives Kinzinger and Doyle, Hudson and Peters, Flores and McNerney, and Johnson. Their leadership on advancing commonsense policies is appreciated.

I look forward to marking up these bills today and consideration by the full Committee in the near future.